Female Breast Cancer in West Virginia



Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cancer-related cause of death among women in West Virginia and the US.¹ Although it is rare, men are also susceptible to breast cancer.² On average, approximately 1,536 women were diagnosed with breast cancer, while about 290 women died of the disease in WV between 2015-2019.¹ Breast cancer rates vary slightly between white and black West Virginia women. Both groups are equally likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, but black West Virginia women are more likely to die from the disease.¹ Breast cancer is more common in women ages 65-69 years old in WV than any other age group.³

More than half (56%) of women with breast cancer in WV were diagnosed with localized breast cancer, while 21% and 6% were diagnosed with regional and distant breast cancer, respectively.³ As with other cancers, the earlier breast cancer is detected, the better the chance of survival. Currently, the best way to detect breast cancer when it is still in its early stages, and, thus, more easily treatable, is through yearly or biennial mammograms.⁴ As of April 2023, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends biennial screening starting at age 40 or 45, and cessation at age 74 or 79.⁵

There are several factors that can influence a person's chance of developing breast cancer. Some of these risk factors are shown below:

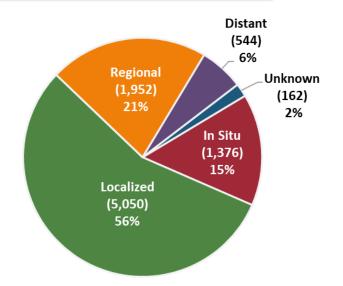
Breast Cancer Risk Factors⁶ Non-Modifiable Risk Factors Environmental/Lifestyle Risk Factors Alcohol **Radiation Therapy** Diethylstilbesterol (DES) Obese/ Alcohol consumption Prior history of radiation Having taken DES medication Sex Overweight increases risk. therapy to the chest/ during pregnancy increases risk in breast area before age 30. Being female both mother and child. overweight, especially **Physical Activity** older women have an **Dense Breasts** increased risk of Being less physically Genetics Dense breasts developing breast Advanced Age active increases risk contain more Genetic mutations to certain connective tissue: normal weight. breast cancer genes (like are diagnosed after this makes it more BRCA1, BRCA2). difficult to read a age 50. Personal history of breast or mammogram. **Reproductive History Hormone Replacement** Having a first-degree relative Therapy (HRT) Having the first pregnancy (i.e. mother, sister, and **Exposure to Hormones** after age 30 Some forms of HRT taken during daughter) who had breast or ovarian cancer increases Experiencing menstrual periods before age 12 Not breastfeeding menopause can increase risk. and starting menopause after age 55 exposes Some oral contraceptives (birth Never having a full-term omen to hormones longer, increasing risk. control pills) can also increase risk.

- 1) U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2021 submission data (1999-2019): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz, released in June 2022.
- 2) American Cancer Society. Accessed at http://www.cancer.org/cancer/breastcancer/detailedguide/breast-cancer-what-is-breast-cancer on 8/31/2022 at 1:00 PM.
- 3) West Virginia Cancer Registry
- 4) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed at https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic_info/screening.htm on 8/31/2022 at 9:15 PM
- 5) U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Accessed at https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/document/draft-modeling-report/breast-cancer-screening-adults on 5/30/2023 at 3:10 PM
- 6) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed at https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic_info/risk_factors.htm on 8/31/2022 at 9:30 AM

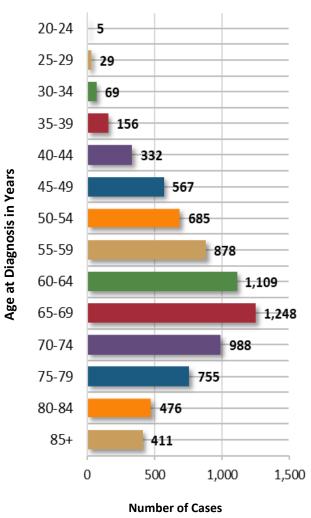
Female Breast Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rate (per 100,000) and Counts, West Virginia, 2015-2019

	Incidence		Mortality	
	Rate	Cases	Rate	Deaths
Females	121.7	7,684	21.6	1,451

Percentage of Female Breast Cancer Cases by Stage at Diagnosis, West Virginia, 2015-2019



Female Breast Cancer Incidence Counts by Age Group, West Virginia 2015-2019



Average Annual Age-Adjusted Female Breast Cancer Incidence Rates by County, West Virginia, 2015-2019

